

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

March 11, 2002 LB 681, 707

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Beutler, you're recognized to open on LB 707.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature, this bill has to do with the Campaign Finance Reform Act. It was advanced out of the Government Committee. There was no testimony in committee against the changes proposed in the amendment, and, generally, I have worked very closely with the Accountability and Disclosure Commission to try to address some problems that have come up over the last few years with the accountability, with the Campaign Finance Reform Act, and this bill is essentially a series of adjustments to respond to problems identified by various individuals and by the commission itself. The bill itself is contained in the committee amendment, and with that I think I will stop and we can go to the committee amendment. And I'm not sure whether Senator Schimek wants to explain the committee amendment in detail, but whichever way she wants to go, I'll respond to her lead. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Schimek, as the Chairperson of Government and Military Affairs Committee, you're recognized to open on committee amendments to LB 707.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President and members. The committee amendment makes four changes to the bill. The first one is that we would require that during the election period no candidate for a covered elective office shall accept contributions from any one individual in excess of \$1,000, or from an independent committee, business, including a corporation, union, industry, trade, or professional association or political party in excess of \$10,000. And I might tell you that these were the provisions of LB 681, which was introduced last year. Those provisions that I just read to you, those limitations, are not...do not apply to contributions by the candidate of his or her money on behalf of his or her candidacy. The second thing that the committee amendment does, it defines expenditures to include repayment of loans to the candidate committee made for the purchase of campaign activities. The third thing it does, it clarifies that, for the election period,